



May 22, 2015

This falls under the categories of: 1) not enough to do & 2) too much disposable income.

The story starts when I was in Target buying things to entertain a 7-year-old on a cross country car trip. I saw a package of little figurine/action figures that was some kind of a game. Then I read the label: to be used with internet gaming, or something like that. Clearly not a good choice for a car trip. At the time, I thought it was odd that these little figures were somehow involved or could be part of a computer game. Silly me.

These toys are called "toys to life"-they are physical figurines that interact with video games. Apparently 70% of parents know about this-so says an internet story and you know you can believe anything you see on the internet. I'm guessing that only 5% of grandparents have a clue. In these computer games, if you want more characters in the game, you can buy these toys, place them on a portal, and voila, beam me up Scotty, the toy appears in the game.

Makes you want to run right and get one, I bet.

Apparently there are only a few games in which this will work. Activision's Skylanders, Disney's Infinity and Nintendo's Amiibo. Lego will have a game sometime this fall, I think. For the Lego game, you will have to build your character, of course, then transport it into the game.

But there are lots of characters that you can buy for these games, many of which have nothing to do with the game. For example, if you want to play as Donald Duck, just buy the right figurine and transport it into the game. Voila, you're Donald Duck. You could import Mickey Mouse and Iron Man into the same game.

Now I haven't gotten to the most astonishing part of all of this, of course. I mean who really cares if you play a game as Donald Duck? Well, obviously Disney, Nintendo & Activision. To the tune of \$3 billion this year alone. Per company, give or take a billion. One guy reports that he buys 3 sets of everything: one to play, 1 to set on a shelf, & 1 to stay in its original packaging. And his 4 & 5 year old kids aren't to touch "daddy's toys." This same dad spent \$200 on a figurine named Chop Chop, a metallic-blue undead warrior from Skylanders. Another 30-something guy has spent \$1000 on figurines. Makes spending \$.99 on 5 more lives in Candy Crush seem less idiotic. Or my purchase (with Amazon points) of book #22 in the Man From U.N.C.L.E., to complete my 23-book set.

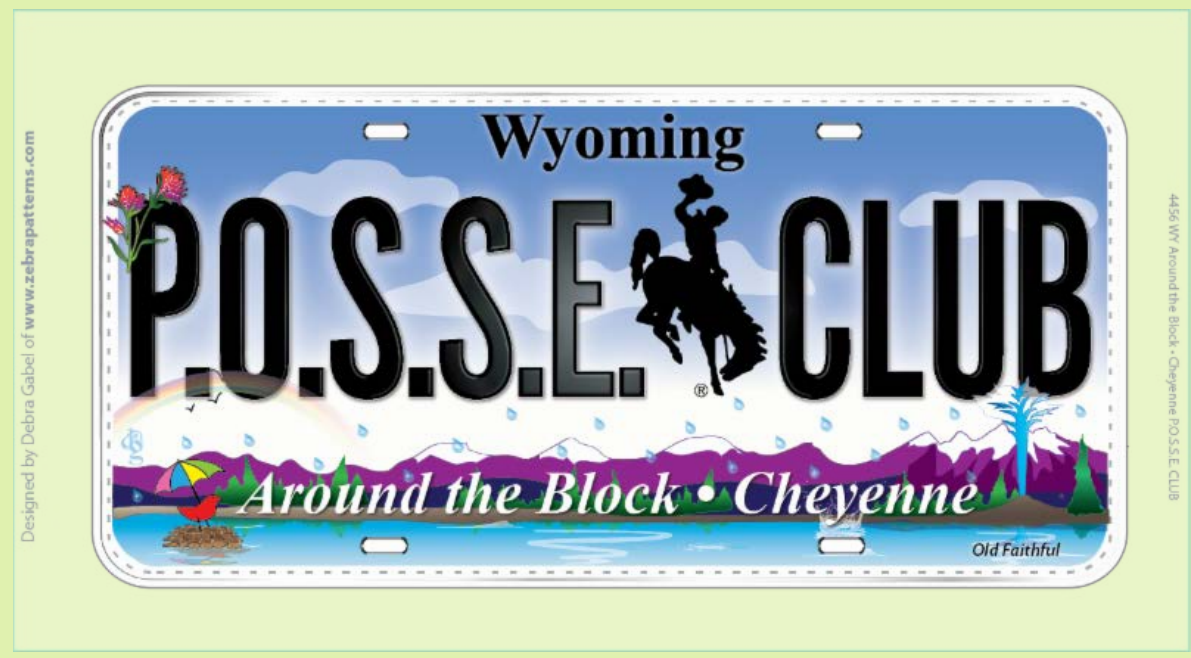
One toy is selling on eBay for \$4,000-it's a dragon that is missing a wing, apparently a mistake on the manufacturing end, but the seller is hoping to cash in on a potential collectible-a little like when a spelling mistake on a penny makes it worth 10 cents. And I worry about having enough money to pay for insurance, the house & food. And \$.99 for extra Candy Crush lives. Or Man From U.N.C.L.E. books.

And not to be left out of this magic "toys come to life" concept, an internet site called Spells of Magic offers this suggestion to kids: Hold the toy in your hand and say, "Toys, toys. Come alive. Come alive on the count of five. One, two, three, four, five. Now, you may come alive." And then at midnight, your toy will come alive. Seriously. I tried it, but apparently my toys weren't the right kind. I'm tempted to try it on my old old not-my-dog dog, so that she's still living in the morning. But that might fall under dog abusive, so I won't try it.

Now I'm glad our economy is such that it can support such wanton spending activities. I can remember the day when 1 tv was the norm (we actually had 3, so dad could watch all the college games at Thanksgiving). And mom made all my clothes and I walked 2 miles to school, uphill both ways. Back then I was lucky enough to have an allowance that gave me money for 1 Man From U.N.C.L.E. book. And spy guns. And communicator pens. And a Barbie doll or two.

Don't everybody laugh at once.

Get Ready for the Row by Row Experience!



QUILT CHALLENGE!

The Buckeye Community Club is hosting a 6th annual quilt and fabric arts show September 19 & 20. The show is celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Buckeye School, which now serves as a community center.

The show will have 30 contemporary quilts and fabric arts pieces, each displayed with an antique or traditional quilt, matched for color, fabric, technique or other connection.

The theme for this year's show is Happy Birthday! and the Buckeye Community Club is looking for quilters and artists to make a small quilt (about 48" X 48", doesn't have to be square) to donate to the show. The show will sell the pieces as unique birthday cards or presents -- so use your imagination in creating your quilt. Proceeds from the sale will help to preserve and improve the historic Buckeye School and rural community.

As an incentive, monetary prizes will be awarded for the Grand Champion (\$100?) and People's Choice, Best Technique, Artistic Merit and Innovation (\$50? each). (Monetary amounts still being decided.)



Quilts do not need to be finished before September, but the Club needs your commitment by May 1, 2015. You can contact Ed Harris at 970-568-3401 or at eharris@frii.com to let him know that you plan to participate.

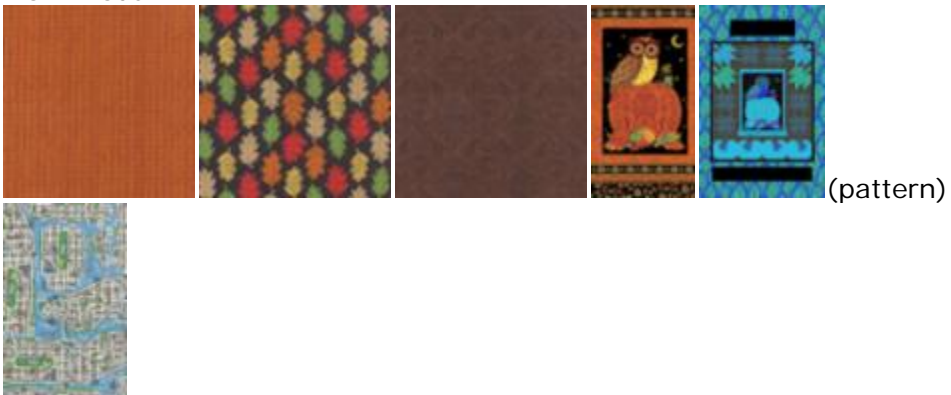


WHAT'S NEW!!

From Blank:

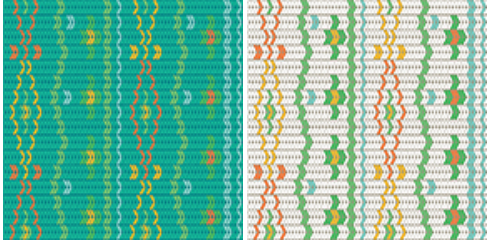


From Moda:



From Benartex:

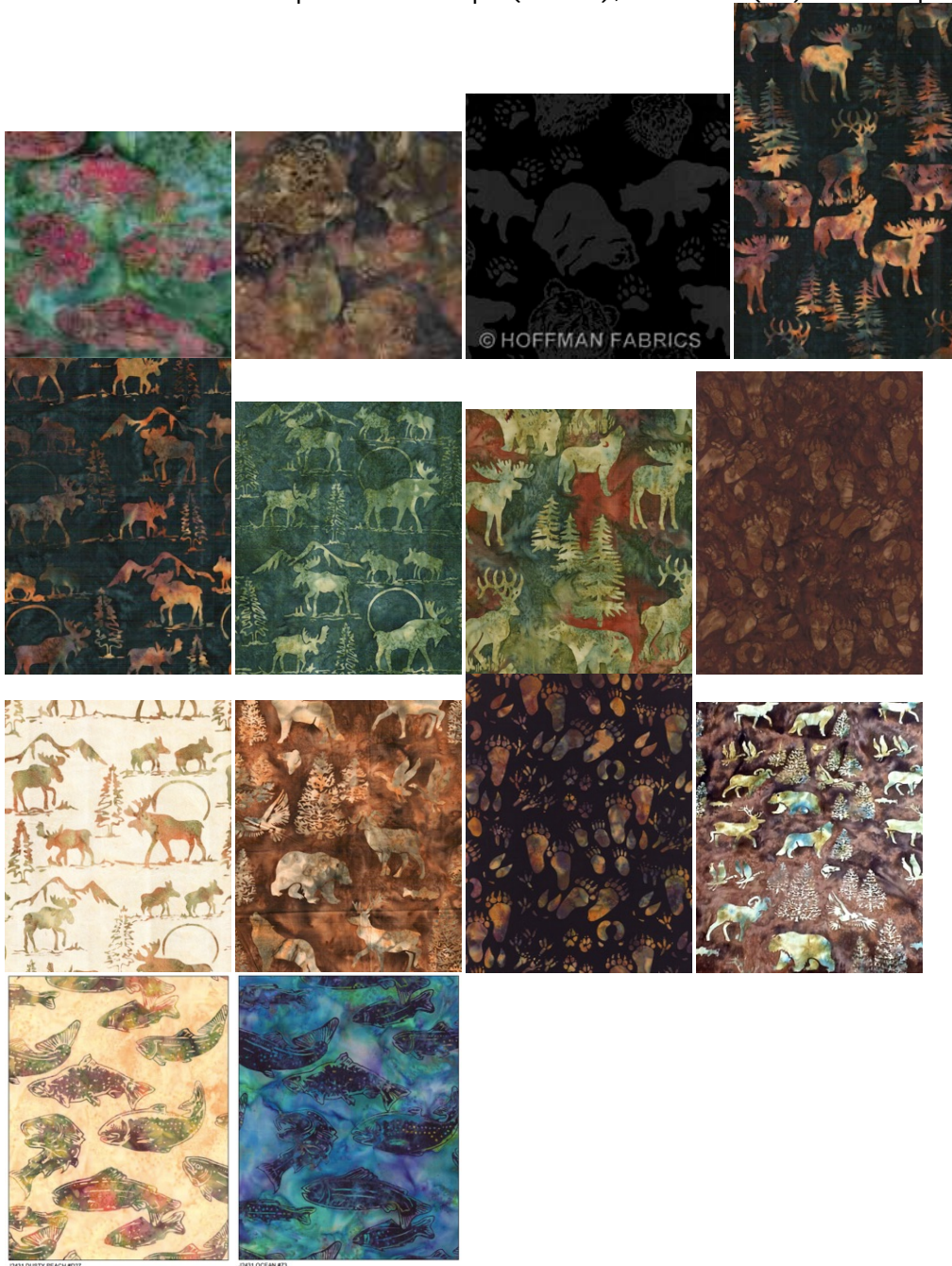




From e Studio & Henry Glass:



From Hoffman--the strips come in Pops (2 1/2"), Crackers (10) and Snaps (5"):



May Classes & Special Events

Hand Applique Club
Thursday May 28 1:30-4 free

The last Thursday of each month, we're getting together to practice our hand applique skills. The Club is open to all skill levels. We want to share what we've learned, find new patterns, and simply just sit and sew. More and more patterns are showing applique work, and while sometimes you can just fuse it down, learning how to hand applique is a wonderful skill that can be carried anywhere you go.

Bertie's Year last Friday of the month, 1-4

Bertie's Year is a small wall hanging, (or you can make each block into a mini quilt for display each month). Bertie is done in flannels and wool (kit only includes flannel). Bertie (the bird) and friends (squirrel, pumpkins) are appliqued with crazy quilt embroidery embellishments.

Friday Nighters Fri. May 29, 5:30-9 \$10 (one time fee for year)

This class will help you get organized for Christmas 2015 -- or just help you get things done. You give me a list of your "to dos" or unfinished projects you want to finish and then each month I check off what you've completed. Trust me. If you need incentive to stay on track, this is it. You can bring your sewing machine or do hand work.

Hunter Star Quilt Sat. May 30, 10:30-5 \$20 (free with kit) Barb Boyer

Hunter Star is a classic pattern and this one is done with no inset seams. Beautiful stars pop out of this dramatic quilt. Perfect size for a college grad to take to school, or add another row for a wedding quilt.

June Classes & Special Events

Monday Morning Quilt Mon. June 1, 10-2 \$20 or free with kit Sue Frerich

This month Sue is doing a pillow. Very cute. All kitted & ready to go.

Block of the Month Sat. June 6, 10:30-11:15 FREE

Join at any time. You get a free fat quarter if you come to class with the previous month's completed block. This year we're making a neutrally colored quilt (tans, taupes, greys, etc.)-come to class in January to see an example.

Monthly Minis First Saturday of the Month, Jan-Dec. 4-6 Barb Boyer \$20 ongoing

Beginning Quilting Starting Sun. 1-4, June 14 OR Wednesday

June 17 1-4 \$65 Barb Boyer

This comprehensive 8-week course will introduce to you almost everything you need to know about piecing a quilt top. Along the way you will learn about color, batting, thread, machines and various techniques to give you the skills to make almost any quilt.

Knit Pickers' Club Thur. June 11, 6-8:30

Every second Thursday, we're getting together to practice our knitting. The Club is open to all skill levels. We want to share what we've learned, find new patterns, and simply just sit and knit. If you are in the Monday knitting classes, you can work on your project and get help, if you need it.

Hand Embroidery Club Sat. June 13, 10-11:30 FREE

(Club normally meets the 2nd Sat. of each month from 10-noon)

This year we're doing birds-state birds. We will have between 40-50 birds (some states use the same bird) for you to stitch. Various setting for turning the birds into a quilt will be provided. Color suggestions for the birds will also be offered. As a bonus, you will get the state outlines, state flowers, and other patterns to compliment the birds. You can join anytime.

Crazy Scrap Quilt Table Runner Sat. June 13, 1-6 \$20 or free with kit Barb Boyer

We will work with a set of templates to make a fun table runner.

Bucking Horse & Rider Quilt Sat. June 20, 10:30-5 \$20 Barb Boyer
Fussy cut Steamboat & turn them into perfect squares for your own Bucking Horse & Rider Quilt!

Bertie's Year last Friday of the month, 1-4

Bertie's Year is a small wall hanging, (or you can make each block into a mini quilt for display each month). Bertie is done in flannels and wool (kit only includes flannel). Bertie (the bird) and friends (squirrel, pumpkins) are appliqued with crazy quilt embroidery embellishments.

Friday Nighters Fri. June 26, 5:30-9 \$10 (one time fee for year)

This class will help you get organized for Christmas 2015 -- or just help you get things done. You give me a list of your "to dos" or unfinished projects you want to finish and then each month I check off what you've completed. Trust me. If you need incentive to stay on track, this is it. You can bring your sewing machine or do hand work.

May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Open Sew1-4	2 BOM 10:30-11:30 Monthly Minis 4-6
3 CLOSED	4 Monday Morning Quilts 10- 2-Irish Chain	5	6	7 Mastering Curves & Free Motion Quilting	8	9 Embroidery Club 10-noon Triangle Frenzy Table

				1-4 & 6-9		Runner 1-6
	Full Moon (observed)					
10	11	12	13	14 Mastering Curves & Free Motion Quilting 1-4 & 6-9	15 Open Sew1-4 RETREAT Magic 9- Patch 3-8	16 RETREAT Magic 9- Patch 10-5
17 Magic 9- Patch 1-4	18	19	20	21 Mastering Curves & Free Motion Quilting 1-4 & 6-9	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Hand Applique Club 1:30-4	29 Bertie's Year 1-4 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?	30 Hunter Star 10:30- 5
31						

June 2015

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	1	2	3	4	5	6 BOM 10:30-11:30
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	Full Moon Monday Morning Quilts 10-2 Pretty Pillow				Open Sew1-4	Monthly Minis 4-6
7 CLOSED	8	9	10 Beginning Quilt 1-4	11 Knit Pickers' Club 6- 8:30	12	13 Embroidery Club 10- noon Scrap Crazy Table Runner 1-6 World Wide Knit in Public Day 10-6
14 Beginning Quilt 1-4	15	16	17 Beginning Quilt 1-4	18	19 Open Sew1-4	20 Bucking Horse & Rider Quilt 10:30-5
21 Beginning Quilt 1-4	22	23	24 Beginning Quilt 1-4	25	26 Bertie's Year 1-4 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?	27
28 Beginning Quilt 1-4	29	30				

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HAND APPLIQUE CLUB

This is a get-together & stitch class. Many of us are trying hand applique these days-- patterns are calling for a lot more applique. The club is designed for quilters who already do some hand applique, but beginners are welcome as well. We will share techniques, suggest patterns, talk about threads and, in general, just stitch. A little quiet time away from the distractions of home is what we need to get our projects done.

HAND EMBROIDERY CLUB

If you want to learn to hand embroider or just brush up your technique, join us on the second Saturday of the month from 10 to noon. We provide free vintage patterns, and this year we will have free patterns of girls with hats, that you can embroider, embellish and color. Each month Kathy Sconce shows us a new stitch to try, plus, she guides us through thread choices, how to knot, fabrics to use, and tracing techniques.

Knit Pickin' Club

This is another get-together class to sit & knit, work on our projects, share information and get some help. We will share techniques, suggest patterns, but mainly we'll sit & knit (or pick).

Toad Toters

On full moon days (as noted in the calendar) you will get 20% off all purchases (not otherwise discounted) that you can fit in your bag. You must bring your bag to participate.

Full Moon Days: May 4 (observed), June 1, July 1, August 29.

Discount Policy

We will honor only one discount -- whichever is largest. You can't combine a 10% with a 25% discount to get a 35% discount. On this we can't be bribed.

Color of the Month

May flowers/floral, June baby novelties, July blue, August black & gray

Join the fun and come feel the difference of quality fabrics.

Happy quilting!

Sincerely,

Barbara Boyer
 Around the Block
 307-433-9555
www.aroundtheblockquilts.com

